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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 05/25/2011

LEWIS FIDLER, was interviewed at the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, One St. Andrews Plaza, New York, New York by Assistant United States Attorneys [REDACTED]
Also interviewing FIDLER were Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] FIDLER was joined by his attorneys [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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FIDLER has three different sources of income including the New York City Council, the law firm Robertson and FIDLER and LAW CASH. The law firm Robertson and FIDLER is a general practice law firm specializing in immigration law which FIDLER began working at in 1999. LAW CASH is a national company he has worked for since 2004 dealing with non-recourse insurance claimants. FIDLER has been a city council member since 2002.

Around 1993, FIDLER became the Democratic District Leader/State Committeeman in the 41st Assembly District. EILEEN WEINSTEIN is the Assembly Woman for that district.

FIDLER's political involvement began in the early 1980s when he was the Community Board Seventeen Chairman. In 1984, FIDLER was the campaign manager for JOE HYNES's Attorney General race. In 1989, FIDLER ran HYNES's District Attorney Campaign in Brooklyn. In 1992, FIDLER was the campaign manager for SAL ALBANESE's congressional race.

FIDLER has known CARL KRUGER since sometime in the 1970s. KRUGER was active in the Thomas Jefferson Democratic Club. At the time, FIDLER was a part of the Madison Democratic Club, later joined the Truman Club and now belongs to the 41st Democratic Club. FIDLER remains a member of the Jefferson Club, though does not participate in many activities there.

FIDLER is not a close friend of KRUGER's but has managed to peacefully co-exist with him. KRUGER is not a nice guy and not a warm and fuzzy person. FIDLER has been screwed more than once by KRUGER and FIDLER does not believe KRUGER's "word" is very good.

Investigation on 5/24/2011 at New York, New York

File # 194B-NY-296800

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KRUGER is too smart to ask FIDLER to do him a favor directly. The two do not have a good enough relationship that would encourage KRUGER to ask FIDLER for any favors. If KRUGER ever needed FIDLER's help, he would disguise this by stating he was actually asking for FIDLER's assistance only because he, KRUGER, was trying to help someone else. FIDLER did not trust KRUGER as far as he could throw him and never wanted to ask KRUGER for any help because he feared KRUGER would oppose his idea just for sport.

KRUGER was adamantly against building a grocery store in the Canarsie Plaza because KRUGER's friend, [REDACTED] (phonetic), [REDACTED] on Ralph Avenue about ten blocks away and this would hurt [REDACTED] business. CANARSIE PLAZA is nowhere near KRUGER's Senate District. Other than his relationship with [REDACTED], FIDLER has no explanation why KRUGER was a part of any discussion regarding the development of Canarsie Plaza. KRUGER was also opposed to building a COSTCO at this location.

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FIDLER was surprised to learn that a BJ's would be put in Canarsie Plaza. FIDLER would have opposed this idea, but never was afforded that opportunity.

FIDLER has always been suspicious of KRUGER and does not believe KRUGER ever looked out for the public's interest.

Around 2005/2006, FIDLER proposed the "downzoning" of the CANARSIE area of Brooklyn. This would essentially not allow anything to be built in CANARSIE that wasn't already there. KRUGER and [REDACTED] were against FIDLER's downzoning proposal and argued against it. CANARSIE was in the same territory as Community Board Eighteen. [REDACTED] did not think there was an expert/agency that could handle this request while FIDLER knew of those city agencies that were specifically in place to assist in this process.

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In approximately 2007, City Officials said they'd split the Four Sparrows development into two segments; the Cadillac/Toys-R-Us piece and the Forest City Ratner (FCR) piece.

Around that time, KRUGER [REDACTED] sent a letter to the city stating that splitting the two pieces did not make any sense. FIDLER agreed with this position.

[REDACTED] of CRYSTAL CADILLAC, first began the push to develop Four Sparrows. [REDACTED] was losing his business and

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wrote many letters to government officials pushing a development deal. The proposal included a land swap between a Toys-R-Us that was on the Four Sparrows site with [redacted] dealership. It too included a financial plan involving Toys-R-Us buying the land it occupied from New York City while sharing this expense, approximately twenty-five percent, with Tornado Realty.

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The development plan also called for a strip mall to be developed by FCR.

FIDLER attended a meeting in 2007 with the New York City Economic Development Committee (EDC) at City Hall on the Mayor's side of the building. Present at this meeting were FIDLER, KRUGER, [redacted] Deputy Mayor LIEBER, Assemblyman Allen Meisel (phonetic) and Deputy Mayor LIEBER as well as representatives from the EDC. KRUGER was loud and vociferous at this meeting and vehemently opposed splitting the land because of the environmental approvals that would be required of each split section instead of one approval. Essentially, KRUGER felt that approving development of only half the land, which the City was proposing, was a very big mistake.

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FIDLER does not believe [redacted] or [redacted] FCR, wanted this land to be split either. [redacted] like most people, always had a love/hate relationship with KRUGER.

FIDLER is unsure why KRUGER went ballistic at this meeting though his assumption was that KRUGER had a fat campaign account and he did not want to do anything to oppose [redacted] or FCR.

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This concept of splitting the development at Four Sparrows died soon after this meeting.

Sometime later after the New York City Mayoral race, Senator JOHN SAMPSON then asserted himself into the Four Sparrows development issue. SAMPSON scheduled a meeting with KRUGER, [redacted] Assemblyman MAISEL, a representative from ANTHONY WEINER's office, Assemblyman PERRY, the EDC, [redacted] and FCR, [redacted]. During this meeting, someone stated "not much has changed" regarding the development approval process at Four Sparrows and then someone from the EDC stated the City purposefully delayed this development because they intended on proposing an above-ground natural gas pipeline that would be installed throughout Brooklyn and likely pass through the Four Sparrows Property. FIDLER and KRUGER were both dumbfounded that they were kept in the dark about this proposed plan that was being pursued

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for over a year and only after the Mayoral race was over, did they find out about it. KRUGER stated to the EDC representative "how dare you." FIDLER joined in KRUGER's disgust of the situation.

FIDLER believes KRUGER controls Community Board Eighteen defacto because of his relationship with [REDACTED]

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FIDLER has spoken to KRUGER a number of times regarding the development at Four Sparrows. Up until KRUGER's testimony in February, 2011 at the Environmental Impact Scoping Hearing held at the Kings Plaza Community Room, FIDLER and KRUGER were on the same page regarding the development plan.

FIDLER's position on the project never changed, he did not want a big box store, but would be happy to see a trendy upscale store like Trader Joe's or a Fairway Market go into Four Sparrows.

At the scoping hearing, FIDLER stated that a Big Box would not be tolerated at the site. KRUGER got up and started railing at first about the fact that there were two different plans from FCR and then later became equally upset that the proposed anchor tenant at the site was not identified.

What was surprising to FIDLER was that prior to the scoping hearing, KRUGER appeared fine that the anchor tenant had not been identified while the site was being developed yet at the hearing, he seemed suddenly very concerned. KRUGER raved on and on about this uncertainty when before, it did not seem to matter to him.

During this time, there were blogs on the internet about KRUGER's support of the Four Sparrows Project and allegations about his support. FIDLER believes that KRUGER may have simply been raving at this meeting just to try and disguise the fact that he was in fact, an unequivocal supporter of the project going forward.

About ten days ago FIDLER met with [REDACTED] and his colleagues from FCR, [REDACTED] LNU and [REDACTED] LNU to discuss the feasibility of a COSTCO going into the Four Sparrows Site which FIDLER opposed.

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Yesterday, FIDLER received a call from [REDACTED] advising him that FCR would no longer be pursuing the Four Sparrows deal and that FCR intended to give it back to the original developer.

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[] stated that it was too small of a deal for FCR to develop if they were unable to put a Costco there.

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When a New York City Environmental Study is required, there are public hearings held at the respective community boards, Borough Boards, City Planning office, Land Use Committee, City Council and the Council as a whole.

KRUGER and the [] are very close. About five years ago, BERNIE CATCHER (phonetic) called FIDLER and described a conversation that he, CATCHER, just had with KRUGER. In the call,

[]

CATCHER helped make KRUGER a State Senator. FIDLER believes KRUGER shared this information with CATCHER because he had no other person to turn to.

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Very few people knew about this call between CATCHER and KRUGER. FIDLER believes SOLOMON KALISH may know about the call because he was very close with CATCHER. FIDLER met KALISH through CATCHER and now represents one of KALISH's firm's, COMPREHENSIVE IMAGING, in a collection lawsuit.

FIDLER did not witness KRUGER and KALISH out together socially. KRUGER hired [] to work for him. FIDLER knew of no business relationship between KRUGER and KALISH nor KALISH and the []

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Many people referred to the house on Bassett Avenue in Brooklyn as KRUGER's house and not KRUGER's other address on Avenue L in Brooklyn. [] CATCHER, MARTY MARKOWITZ and [] would all know that KRUGER lived on BASSETT Avenue.

FIDLER last saw the [] at Pizza Amore.

FIDLER has no business relationship with [] or FCR.

FIDLER does not have a close relationship with [] or [] is not very sharp. She lost her seat in the city council due to term limits.

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 KRUGER never talked to FIDLER about PA Associates or
 FIDLER's predecessor, HERB BERMAN knew

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